

Mr. President, Madam High Commissioner,

We, the co-signatories to this letter, are concerned about credible reports of arbitrary detention in large-scale places of detention, as well as widespread surveillance and restrictions, particularly targeting Uighurs and other minorities in Xinjiang, China.

We recall China's obligations as a member of the UN Human Rights Council to "uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and fully cooperate with the Council."

We recall the 2018 concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in its review of China, which expressed concern about disturbing reports of large-scale arbitrary detentions of Uighurs, and other Muslim and minority communities. We also share concerns expressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and by several UN Special Procedures mandate holders in this regard.

We call on China to uphold its national laws and international obligations and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief, in Xinjiang and across China. We call also on China to refrain from the arbitrary detention and restrictions on freedom of movement of Uighurs, and other Muslim and minority communities in Xinjiang.

We welcome China's acceptance of a Universal Periodic Review recommendation to respond positively to a country visit request by the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and urge China to allow meaningful access to Xinjiang for independent international observers, including for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. We further call on China to implement the related recommendations in the concluding observations of CERD. We ask the High Commissioner for Human Rights to keep the Human Rights Council regularly informed.

We request that this letter be recorded as a document of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council and that it be published on the OHCHR website.

Geneva, 8 July 2019

To the President of the Human Rights Council,


We, the undersigned, have the honour to transmit herewith a joint letter on behalf of the undersigned states.

We would be highly appreciative if you could kindly circulate the present letter and the annex thereto and record them as a document of the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council, to be published on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

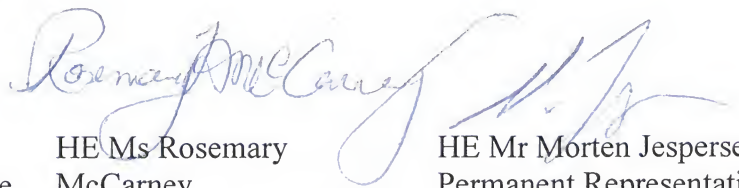
Signed



HE Ms Sally Mansfield  
Permanent Representative  
of Australia

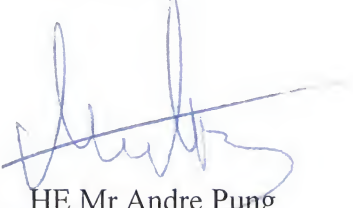


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HE Ms Rosemary  
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HE Mr Morten Jespersen  
Permanent Representative  
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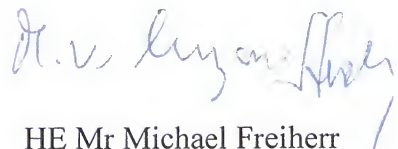
HE Mr Andre Pung  
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HE Ms Terhi Hakala  
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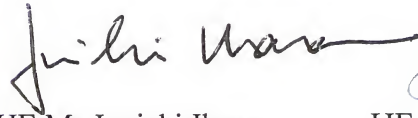
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HE Mr Harald Aspelund  
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HE Mr Junichi Ihara  
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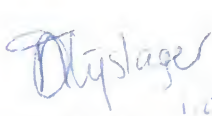
HE Mr Janis Karklins  
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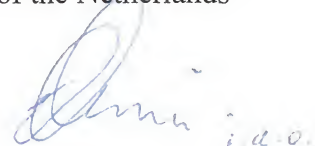
HE Ms Jillian Dempster  
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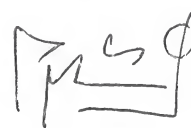


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